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The large telescope at Vienna has made important observations of comets too faint to be seen with smaller instruments, as well as asteroid observations of the same kind. Experiments have been made in photographing with it, and these are still in progress. A list of double stars has also been observed.

For comparison, or rather contrast, with its mounting, I insert a cut of the 26-inch telescope at Washington, which we owe to the courtesy of Captain MCNAIR, Superintendent of the Observatory. The mounting is by ALVAN CLARK & SONS, and is too light and too simple, rather than the reverse. It has, however, served its purposes admirably, for the past seventeen years, in the skillful hands of Professors NEWCOMB and HALL.

The 12-inch CLARK telescope at Vienna has been employed in the discovery and observation of asteroids in the completion of PALISA's Ecliptic Charts and in comet observations. This object-glass is a very fine one in every respect.

The Observatory possesses a REICHENBACH meridian circle, made in 1825, and a 5-inch prime vertical transit by STARKE, also very old. Its present equipment of meridian instruments is thus very defective, as compared to its admirable outfit of equatorials. The Observatory has regularly published its observations since 1821.

E. S. H.

LIST OF EARTHQUAKES IN CALIFORNIA DURING THE
YEAR 1890.

The following list contains the dates and places of occurrence of earthquakes in California (and occasionally in Nevada and Alaska) during the past year. It is a continuation of the list printed in Number 7 of these *Publications*, giving the same data for the year 1889. A complete description of the different shocks will be printed in the form of a bulletin by the U. S. Geological Survey. The times are Pacific Standard Times. The Roman numerals indicate the estimated intensity of the shocks on the ROSSI-FOREL scale:

List of Earthquakes.

1890.

- January 2, 8;15—Kodiak Island, Alaska.
- January 11, 4:20 A. M.—Kodiak Island, Alaska.
- January 15, 5:05 A. M.—Mt. Hamilton (IV-V).
- January 18, 3:30 P. M.—Santa Barbara, Napa.
- January 23, 4:18 A. M.—Oakland.

January 24, 1:15 P. M.—Santa Ana.

January 24, 4:30 or 5:30 P. M.—Santa Ana.

February 5, 10:15 P. M.—Pomona, Santa Ana, San Diego, San Bernardino, three distinct shocks at 10 o'clock.

February 9, 4 A. M.—Colton, San Diego, San Pedro, Pomona.

February 9, 6:04 (?) A. M.—San Bernardino. Probably same shock as the above.

February 13, 2:10 A. M.—Tehachapi. Three light, but distinct, shocks, at intervals of about twenty minutes.

February 14, 4 A. M.—Los Angeles.

February 15, about midnight—Gilroy.

April 6, 1:20 A. M.—Kodiak Island, Alaska.

April 11, 11:30 A. M. (?)—Ukiah.

April 16, 9 A. M.—Mt. Hamilton (II).

April 24, 3:36 A. M.—Mt. Hamilton (V), Berkeley, Oakland (IV-V), San Francisco, Salinas, Benicia, Los Gatos, Brentwood, Gilroy, San Jose, Hollister, Redwood City, Point Reyes, Centerville, Watsonville, Napa, Santa Cruz, Mayfield, Pajaro, San Juan, San Leandro, Livermore, Boulder Creek, Spanishtown, San Mateo, Gonzales, College Park, Merced, Port Costa, Martinez, Stockton, Carson City, Nevada.

This shock was the heaviest along the line of the Pajaro river, where some damage was done to railroad bridges and other property.

May 11, 1 P. M.—Oakland (IV) College Park (III), East Oakland (IV), San Leandro, Berkeley.

May 14, 5 and 8 A. M.—Pajaro valley. Newspapers report slight shocks almost daily since April 24.

May 16—Eruptions and earthquakes in Alaska since February 10.

June 1, 1:21 P. M.—Healdsburg.

June 29, 7:25 A. M.—Santa Rosa, Petaluma.

June 30, 11 (?) A. M.—Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz.

July 1, 12:35 A. M.—Gilroy, San Francisco.

July 4, 4:30 P. M.—Eureka.

July 24, 3 A. M.—Bakersfield.

July 26, 1:45 A. M.—Sissons, Hydesville.

July 28, 12:04 A. M.—Petaluma.

August 17, 6:50 A. M.—College Park.

August 17—Volcanic disturbance in Mono lake.

September 3, 2:20 P. M.—San Francisco, Gilroy.



"THE EARTHQUAKE AT BORDEAUX."

Copy of a Sketch by DAUMIER, by the courtesy of the Century Magazine.

September 5, 2:15 P. M.—Merced.

September 19, 12:15 A. M.—Calico, Barstow, Daggett, San Bernardino.

October 3, 1:05 P. M.(?)—Healdsburg.

October 29, 8:36:29 (IV), and 8:39:29 (III) Mt. Hamilton.

December 4, 9 P. M.—Lone Pine. A series of shocks, lasting until 11 P. M. J. E. K.

EXAMINATION OF THE LICK OBSERVATORY NEGATIVES OF
THE MOON.

In order to obtain all the information which is contained in a negative of the Moon, it is necessary to make a positive copy of it on glass, which shows the lights and shadows as they really are, *i. e.*, white as white and dark as dark. On the positive the eye can at once pick out familiar features or detect new ones, which are not readily apparent on the negative, until they have first been found in their natural colors. In making these positive copies it is usually sought to give such an exposure as will produce the best general plastic effect in the resulting plate—such as will make the best “picture,” as is said. But every single feature on the Moon, and thus on the negative, has an illumination and a distinctness of its own. If we vary the exposure-times in making the copies we shall thus be able to exhibit certain special regions in a new light, which is also a true one as to form, though the photometric contrast with neighboring regions may be exaggerated. Suppose, for example, that in copying a certain negative the best general pictorial effect is obtained by exposing it for 30 seconds to the light of a lamp 18 inches distant. This makes the picture which is wanted by artists, etc., and gives the truest general effect. Some parts of this copy are necessarily much over-exposed, and some parts of it are much under-exposed, but the result is the best general average.

Now suppose that instead of confining ourselves to making this one copy of 30 seconds exposure, we make a series of copies (all at the same distance from the lamp), with exposures of 10, 20, 40, 50, 60, 70 and 80 seconds. What will be the result? We shall have a series of copies in which the photometric contrasts are all exaggerated, but in which the topographic forms are all truly kept. Nothing is shown (if proper precautions are taken) which is not in the original negative, but what *is* there is shown in new lights. All this is very familiar to photographers, no